

REMARKS/ARGUMENTSRejection of Claims 1, 15 and 16 and Applicant's traversal thereof

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 15 - 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2001/0048866 (Sakiya et al.). For reasons explained below, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant asserts that Sakiya et al. does not render obvious the present invention. Specifically, Applicant asserts that Sakiya et al. does not disclose or render obvious at least the feature that the "... wafer carrier door receiver, the horizontally stationary member, and the pair of links form a four-bar link..." as the Examiner suggests. (Application, claim 1) Applicant further asserts that Sakiya et al. does not render obvious the novel use of a four-bar link to move, horizontally, the wafer carrier door receiver.

The present Application states that:

... the wafer carrier door receiver 103, the horizontally stationary member 107, the upper link 111, and the lower link 113 may be configured to comprise what is conventionally known as a four-bar link.

Specification, page 7, lines 22 - 25. Further, "[i]n the exemplary embodiment shown the wafer carrier door receiver 103 moves in a straight horizontal line, due to the horizontally straight configuration of the horizontal extension 129 and the vertical fixation thereof when engaged with cam 131." (Application, page 10, lines 25 - 30).

Applicant asserts that Sakiya et al. does not disclose or render obvious a conventional four-bar link, much less use a four-bar link in a novel manner as claimed by the present Application. The Examiner states that "... that the apparatus has

a pair of links that form a four-bar link together with the door receiver and the stationary member." (Office Action, page 2) As will be discussed in more detail below, Applicant submits link 808 is operative to rotate without inducing horizontal movement of the bar 801 or the supporter 809. Thus, Applicant asserts that the components described in the above passage do not form a conventional four-bar link.

Turning to Sakiya et al., Applicant notes that the Examiner cites to FIG. 8 of Sakiya et al. as depicting a horizontal movement of a door receiver. Specifically, the Examiner states that Sakiya et al. shows "... a link 808 coupled between the wafer carrier door receiver and the horizontally stationary member so as to allow horizontal movement of the wafer carrier door receiver (see Fig. 8)." (Office Action, page 2, emphasis added).

However, Applicant notes that, with reference to FIG. 8, Sakiya et al. discloses that

[t]he driving mechanism 810 is caused to take such rectilinear motion that the rotary lever 808 is caused to rotate about the axis 811. As a result, the bar 801 descends, and the pin located at the tip portion thereof thrusts the hole 804 of the protrusions 803 on the cover of the container. At the same time, the supporter 809 ascends, and the pin located at the tip portion thereof thrusts the hole of the bottom portion 807 of the door and is received in the recess 806 of the bottom portion 805 of the cover.

Sakiya et al., paragraph 0130, emphasis added.

Thus, Applicant submits that the bar 801 and the supporter 809 do not appear operative to move horizontally and, simultaneously, perform the operations described in the immediately preceding passage. Applicant further submits that slots depicted in FIG. 8 appear operative to allow the rotary

lever 808 to rotate without horizontally displacing the bar 801 and the supporter 809. (See FIG. 8, item 808).

Accordingly, Applicant asserts that Sakiya et al. does not render obvious claim 1. The only other rejected claims 15 and 16 are system claims that include similar limitations. Thus, Applicant submits that all rejected claims are allowable.

For the above reasons, the Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the same. A separate Request for Extension of Time is enclosed herewith, with authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. Applicant does not believe any other fees are due regarding this Amendment. If any other fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696. Applicant encourages the EXAMINER to telephone Applicant's attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian M. Dugan, Esq.  
Registration No. 41,720  
Dugan & Dugan, PC  
Attorneys for Applicant  
(914) 332-9081

Dated: February 27, 2006  
Tarrytown, New York